

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-1449V

(not to be published)

KATHLEEN CARLOW,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: September 9, 2022

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Attorney's Fees and Costs

David John Carney, Green & Schafle, LLC, Philadelphia, PA, for Petitioner.

Mark Kim Hellie, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS¹

On September 19, 2019, Kathleen Carlow filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the "Vaccine Act"). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration as a result of an influenza vaccine administered to her on September 20, 2016. (Petition at 1). On July 12, 2022 a decision was issued awarding compensation to Petitioner. (ECF No. 32).

¹ Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Petitioner has now filed a motion for attorney's fees and costs, dated July 27, 2022 (ECF No. 36), requesting a total award of \$45,508.67 (representing \$45,278.50 in fees and \$230.17 in costs incurred by Petitioner's counsel of record). Petitioner also requests \$5,339.48 in fees and costs incurred by Petitioner's former counsel, Larkin Hoffman Law Firm. (*Id.* at 4). Lastly, Petitioner requests \$6,007.04 in fees and costs incurred by Petitioner's former counsel, SiebenCarey, P.A. (*Id.* at 4). In accordance with General Order No. 9, Petitioner filed a signed statement indicating that she incurred no out-of-pocket expenses. (ECF No. 36). Respondent reacted to the motion on August 9, 2022, indicating that he is satisfied that the statutory requirements for an award of attorney's fees and costs are met in this case, but deferring resolution of the amount to be awarded to my discretion. (ECF No. 37). Petitioner filed a reply on August 10, 2022, indicating that "Petitioner does not wish to file a substantive reply to respondent's response." (ECF No. 38).

I have reviewed the billing records submitted with Petitioner's request. In my experience, the request appears reasonable, and I find no cause to reduce the requested hours or rates.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs. Section 15(e). Accordingly, I hereby GRANT Petitioner's Motion for attorney's fees and costs. I award a total of **\$56,855.19³** as follows:

- A lump sum of **\$45,508.67**, representing reimbursement for fees and costs, in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's counsel of record, David Carney at Green & Schafle, LLC; and
- A lump sum of **\$5,339.48**, representing reimbursement for fees and costs in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's former counsel, Larkin Hoffman Law Firm; and
- A lump sum of **\$6,007.04**, representing reimbursement for fees and costs in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's former counsel, SiebenCarey, P.A.

³ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, § 15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See generally *Beck v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs.*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review (see Appendix B to the Rules of the Court), the Clerk shall enter judgment in accordance with this decision.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

⁴ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by filing a joint notice renouncing their right to seek review.